

IN THE CLAIMS

- Sub C1
1. (Twice Amended) A method, comprising:
- a) providing:
 - i) an enzymatic cleavage means;
 - ii) a test nucleic acid substrate containing sequences derived from one or more microorganisms [microorganism]; and
 - iii) control cleavage products produced by cleavage of a reference nucleic acid [sequence] derived from a microorganism;
 - b) treating said test nucleic acid substrate under conditions such that said substrate forms one or more intra-strand secondary [cleavage] structures;
 - c) reacting said cleavage means with said intra-strand secondary [cleavage] structures so that one or more test cleavage products are produced; and
 - d) comparing said test cleavage products to said control cleavage products.

B2 5. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said test nucleic acid substrate comprises a nucleotide analog.

B3 C 7. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said test nucleic acid_A of step (a) is substantially single-stranded.

C 8. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said test nucleic acid_A is RNA.

C 9. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said test nucleic acid_A is DNA.

C 10. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said test nucleic acid_A of step (a) is double stranded.